

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Rags to Riches - to Ralph

Ralph Gardner has a simple formula for success: "If you work hard and are reasonably honest, you will succeed."

Ralph didn't invent that formula. He got it from Horatio Alger, the rags-to-riches novelist whose book for juveniles are said to have sold more copies than those of any other American author.

And it really worked for Ralph. Today, in addition to heading his own New York advertising agency, Ralph is active as a

lecturer, writer, book reviewer and radio broadcaster; he does Ralph Gardner's Bookshelf for WVNJ-NY.

He is also the acknowledged authority on the life and works of his hero, Horatio Alger, and the recipient of several awards from Horatio Alger groups. His own volumes on Alger are *Horatio Alger, or The American Hero Era*, and *Road to Success: Bibliography of the Works of Horatio Alger*.

Ralph's preoccupation with Alger started when he was a lad of 13. A New York City boy, he was on vacation in Maine when he came upon a huge pile of Alger books in a barn. He bought an armload of them for 50 cents and became an Alger fan. He has been collecting Algers ever since. Today, some Algers are priced into the thousands.

Imbued with Alger's success formula, Ralph, at 18, became a copyboy at *The New York Times*. Before he left *The Times* 13 years later to go on his own, he had been manager of their first international edition, in Paris, and bureau manager, in Frankfurt, for Germany and Austria.

This year is an important one for Alger devotees. It leads to January 13 of next year, when they will celebrate Alger's

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Photo: Ralph D. Gardner, Jr.

Ralph D. Gardner

Korean Press Under Tight Rein

The following report is based on a letter from Young Sick Kim, the BULLETIN's correspondent in Seoul.

SEOUL — Reorganization of all news media in South Korea has now been accomplished as part of the movement to establish a new order — the New Era generation — following the assassination of President Park Chung Hee on Oct. 26, 1979.

Previously, there had been five commercial news agencies, a State-run TV station and a radio station, two commercial TV stations and four commercial radio stations.

Now one of the commercial radio stations can do only evangelical broadcasts, and the others have been merged into the State-run KBS. KBS has also taken over management of the *Kyunghyung Daily News*. All South Korean broadcasting is now under direct government administration.

Consolidation of newspapers has taken place, reducing their number both in Seoul and in the provinces. One of Seoul's two economic dailies has been merged into the English-language *Korea Herald*.

(Continued on page 2)

Pia to Brighten Awards Dinner



Pia Lindstrom

PIA LINDSTROM, one of television's loveliest and ablest newscasters, will brighten OPC's annual awards dinner, April 29 at the Waldorf, as mistress of ceremonies. The daughter of actress Ingrid Bergman, Pia has achieved her own stardom in TV, and on all three networks. With ABC's San Francisco affiliate, beginning in 1966, she was part of their news team, covering riots, demonstrations, the Black Panthers. In 1968 she joined WCBS-TV in New York as general assignment reporter and anchor. With WNBC-TV since 1973 she continues her reporting, does features and serves as arts editor and theatre reviewer. Her reporting has won her two Emmys and the New York State AP Broadcasters award.

Jazz World Salutes Our Own Willie

An extraordinary coalition of jazz groups and enthusiasts is throwing a salute to our own **Wilma Dobie**, one of the great names in jazz journalism the world over.

Sponsored by our own Overseas Press Club and blessed by St. Peter's Jazz Ministry, other "encouragers" include the Duke Ellington Society, the Universal Jazz Coalition, the Consortium of Jazz Organizations and Artists, the International Jazz Federation and the jazz societies of New Jersey, Hartford and Cape Cod.

It will all take place on Thursday, March 19, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Eddie Condon's, 144 West 54 Street. RSVP to 212-989-7275.

... and don't forget to write

A few of the characters who try to make this BULLETIN interesting and informative for you were sitting around the other day talking about how it could be made more so.

Someone said, for instance, that things have been happening *to* the club, but not so much seems to be happening *in* the club.

One thing all agreed on is that the BULLETIN needs more input from its readers, from you reading this right now.

For instance: despite the wide interest in *Who, What, Where, Finke* is not overwhelmed with contributions. And the *Letters* column without **Al Kaff's** regular and welcome reports would have to do what the old song sang, sit right down and write itself a letter.

What to do about all of this?

We're going to try running a reader forum every issue, an editorial discussing something right or wrong about the club

that should be praised or damned...or suggesting something that might be done to improve the club and its services to members...or informing or commenting on something happening in or to the calling that brought our club into being in the first place.

Contributions may be signed or anonymous, so long as we know who anonymous is, whose anonymity we will preserve.

Let's hear from you!

—The Editors

Fred Sparks, 65

Fred Sparks, who began his career in journalism as office boy to the great and legendary Arthur Brisbane and later won the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, died Feb. 17 in New York. He was 65 and had no survivors.

Sparks was a resident of New York City, but most of his career was spent away from the city, covering events over the world for the *Chicago Daily News* and various news syndicates. He went with Byrd to the South Pole, entered Tokyo in 1945 with MacArthur, covered the coming of Communism in East Germany and China, the civil war in Greece and the Berlin airlift.

He won his Pulitzer in 1950 while with the *Chicago Daily News*. He did a column for the *New York World Telegram and Sun* and wrote for the *New Yorker*, and *Readers Digest*, the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Esquire*.

D'Amato at Club On Reagan Budget

New York's newest U.S. Senator, Alphonse M. D'Amato, will make his first major policy speech since his election before the Overseas Press Club. He will speak at a club luncheon at noon on Monday, April 20, on "The Reagan Budget and Its Impact on the State of New York." Early reservations suggested. Members \$17, Guests \$20. Call Mary Novick, 679-9650.

... You Should've Stood in Bed

Passed along by George Lesko in the *Pittsburgh Press Club NEWS*, some warnings on how you can tell it's going to be a rotten day:

- You wake up face down on the pavement.
- You put your bra on backward and it fits better.
- You call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold.
- You see a "60 Minutes" news team waiting in your office.
- Your son tells you he wishes Anita Bryant would mind her own business.
- You want to put on the clothes you wore home from the party and there aren't any.
- You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city.
- Your twin sister forgot your birthday.
- Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
- Your wife wakes up feeling amorous and you have a headache.
- Your boss tells you not to bother to take off your coat.
- The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard.
- You wake up and your braces are locked together.
- You walk to work and find your dress is stuck in the back of your pantyhose.
- You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.
- Your blind date turns out to be your ex-wife.
- Your income tax check bounces.
- You put both contact lenses in the same eye.
- Your pet rock snaps at you.
- Your wife says, "Good morning, Bill" and your name is George.

Letters

TEL AVIV — Just returned from Cairo where I attended the World Book Fair with a group of Israeli book publishers. The 17-hour bus schlep through Sinai without a single Howard Johnson. Taking your luggage off the bus, schlepping it across the sand and clambering with it on a tender in complete darkness, and repeating the process, is an experience to be missed. How Moses did this for 40 years without losing a single piece of luggage is one of God's miracles.

Cairo and its 12,000,000 make New York look like a shtetl. You climb aboard and leave the buses while they are in motion. No red lights. Traffic doesn't stop for you when you cross the streets. It requires a special ballet which I was terrified to master.

The Foreign Press Association of Israel held its annual general meeting at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem on Feb. 24, with Prime Minister Begin as guest of honor at the luncheon. The meeting was arranged by FPA's board — Gideon Berli, DPA German Press Agency; Eric Silver, BBC; **Jay Bushinsky**, Westinghouse Broadcasting and Cable News; Lazare Bianco, UP-ITN; **Bill Seamans**, ABC News; and Bruno Wassertheil, CBS.

Shalom!

—Max Gendel

KOREAN PRESS

(Continued from page 1)

The Yunhap News Agency was established Jan. 5 as a joint venture among all existing news agencies, newspapers and broadcasters.

Under the new mass media law passed by the South Korean legislative assembly:

The government may demand use of broadcast media for public notices;

Editors cannot publish articles encouraging violence or violation of the law;

Right of access to government information can be denied if it interferes or obstructs official performance;

Classified information can be denied if it is feared that it would damage public or private interests.

No individual or organization can own more than 50% of any mass media company. Close relatives may not number more than a third of the boards of directors of media companies. No individual may hold more than half the equity of any mass medium. No foreign capital may be invested in any mass medium. All mass media must make public their assets.

As for reporters — violators of national security laws are banned and can be enrolled only three years after completion of their jail terms.

How The AP Tells The World What's News

OPC'er George Krimsky, Deputy Editor of AP's World Services, explains here how it operates. (Courtesy, The AP Log)

World Services is the AP's "export" department. Its job is to deliver AP news to about 10,000 newspaper and broadcast subscribers on five continents outside North America.

The APW report resembles the domestic Interburo wire, in that it contains a mix of general, financial and sports news. The basic difference, of course, is that the APW wire is tailored for an international audience.

Like the IB, laced with local news in each region, the APW service varies to some degree for each area it serves.

For example, New York's Latin American desk (we call it LPA, for "La Prensa Asociada") files news in Spanish on five regional lines south of the border.

With codes, the English-language desk can also target stories individually to Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East (Israel reads the same AP report the Arabs get) or the Sub-continent—or to all at once.

The English-language news is then translated at its various destinations, at some points by bureau staffers and at others by subscribers (we don't call them "members," because they're not).

Visitors to APW are often surprised at the relatively small size of a department that distributes news with the potential of reaching perhaps half the human race at a given moment. We have 29 staffers for around-the-clock service.

It is an editing and control point and not primarily a news-originating department. Secondly, most overseas bureaus have the same capability as U.S. hubs to protect their own areas with regionals. New York is thus free to handle the main stories.

The World Desk computer absorbs about 3,000 items a day, of which some 800 are edited for distribution.

APW receives the same copy that the Foreign Desk gets, but the two desks often view the same story differently. APW has to be particularly on guard against the "American" angle. For example, we can't single out U.S. casualties in a disaster; we can't assume that pioneering surgery in the United States is also a world-wide first.

This is not to say that we avoid U.S. news. Despite some impressions to the contrary, most of the world is vitally interested in what Americans are up to. APW's job is to put that into perspective.

When you are filing news to some 110 countries, you can't please everyone. But, the trying makes it fun.

The Pope Comes Out For a Free Press

Pope John Paul II joined the defenders of free press recently when he told the Italian Foreign Press Association that the news should circulate among all nations "without exception or limitation and without one-sided interpretation."

Freedom of information, the Pope said, is the cornerstone of other freedoms. He indicated disapproval of efforts by Third World and Communist groups to establish international restrictions on journalists.

* * *

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RAGS TO RICHES

(Continued from page 1)

150th birthday. The first important part of that celebration took place recently when Van Nostrand Reinhold published a volume containing two of Alger's adult stories, *A Fancy of Hers/The Disagreeable Woman*.

Ralph wrote the foreword for this volume which tells about Alger's adult side. It seems that Alger tired of doing juveniles and wanted to write adult stories. But his publishers were adamant against this. They were afraid that his name associated with adult literature would kill his very profitable juvenile market.

So Alger wrote his adult stories under various pseudonyms. These two stories had long been lost, so their publication now is regarded as a great coup.

In his foreword, Ralph clears up a little known mystery about Alger's dismissal from the ministry of the Brewster Memorial Church on Cape Cod, where he was suspected of being a homosexual.

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

New Applications

ACTIVE RESIDENTS

Robert J. Morton; Editor in Chief, *News World*
Sponsors: *Henry Gellermann, Harry Rand*
Frances Shemanski; Self-employed, freelance travel writer
Sponsors: *Irene Corbally Kuhn, Henry Gellermann*

ACTIVE OVERSEAS

Gert Mechhoff; Redakteur, Second German TV
Sponsors: *Erwin Leiser, Eric Burger*

New Members

ACTIVE RESIDENTS

Thomas J. Craddock
John J. Grimes
John J. Thornton

ACTIVE NONRESIDENT

Owen F. Campion

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Martin E. Appel

ASSOCIATE NONRESIDENT

Glenn Fischer

CHANGE OF STATUS

From Associate Nonresident to Active Non-resident
Nathan Kingsley; Sen. Editor, *U.S. News & World Report*



OPC BULLETIN

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, George E. Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Rosalind Moore, Charles J. Schreiber, associate editors.

Who, What, Where

By BLYTHE FOOTE FINKE

Greetings, patient OPCers. Just hang in there and one of these issues we will achieve the perfect column here that beloved **Grace Naismith** managed to produce for so many years. It is taking time to avoid calling "he's," "she's," and "she's," "he's," but one of these days.... But we are trying, so keep the copy coming. It is flowing in a bit slow these days, and we need you. That said, on to the latest news.

Don Shannon, *Los Angeles Times* Washington bureau, spent ten days this month in Cuba investigating the Cuban educational system, schools, and overseas training for Cubans. It was a particularly pertinent time with the Soviet/Cuban flow of arms to El Salvador in the headlines.

Nino Lo Bello sends in this item from Vienna—OPC member **Monica Emmer** has joined the staff of *The New Gazette* as its deputy editor. The publication, in its fifth year, is Vienna's English language magazine. Alan Levy has the March cover story on painter Hundertwasser and **Joe Wechsberg** a piece on the Jews of Vienna. Nino is the chief editor.

Jaime Isaac Reibel, writing from Colombia, currently sub-director of "Plan de Padrinos," has just published "The Secret of the Candelabrum: A Bolivian Aristocrat Discovers Her Past" in the January 1981 issue of *Hadassah* magazine.

When the *Omaha World Herald* editor Hollis Limprecht asked OPCer Colonel **Barney Oldfield** of Litton Industries to do a feature on Bob Warren (for 21 years the off-screen voice who gets Lawrence Welk on camera each week) he brought about a modern miracle. Welk insisted that Barney do 'the whole thing' and dance on the postage-stamp sized space. Mercifully, Welk's cameras did not show the feet as Barney never danced in his life—in spite of what you'll see March 28th wherever you are! "The story runs the day afterward," Barney discloses.

Marguerite Cartwright, an OPC stalwart, is busy these days editing the newsletter, "NAAS Update," for the membership of the Nigerian American Friendship Society, which does so much to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Adelaide Bry, who quit Philadelphia to live in San Diego, would like to hear from OPCers in the San Diego area. She has just signed her 12th book contract, with Macmillan, tentative title: "Learning to Love Forever." She's at 804 Anacapa Court, San Diego, CA 92109.

Congratulations to **Elmer Lower** for his election to the Deadline Club's Journalism Hall of Fame. Deadline is the New York City chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists. Other honorees this year are John Hohenberg of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia, where Elmer also teaches, and Red Smith, the *New York Times* sports columnist. Previous honorees include **Wes Gallagher**, now retired from the *Associated Press*, and a former OPC president.

Just as **George Krinsky** is about to return from Africa, **John Sattler** tells us he is en route "for the wilds of West Africa with stops in Morocco, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria. I'll be attending the Third All-Africa Public Relations Conference, among other things. Having been to Egypt, Kenya and South Africa, it's a part of Africa I haven't seen, as yet." John is pursuing his own PR business in Bloomfield, Mich., after many years with Ford Motor Co. George has been teaching journalism to Nigerian journalists. We hope for a report from him soon.

The first Reagan press conference on Jan. 29, was a subdued meeting of correspondents with no jumping up and screaming "Mr. President."

The President recognized 22 reporters whereas in the past during the 30-minute session questions ranged from 11 to 14.

**SIGN
UP A
NEW MEMBER**

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
52 East 41st Street
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FIRST CLASS

Washington Ticker

By JESSIE STEARNS

Joseph T. Slevin, formerly *New York Herald Tribune*, now editor of the *Washington Bond Report*, was sworn in as the 74th National Press Club President by Paul A. Volcker, Chairman, Federal Reserve Board.

OPCers at the sell-out dinner were **Joe Newman**, **John Barton**, **Peggy Whedon**, and **Jessie Stearns**.

Richard Burt, *New York Times* national security affairs reporter, replaced former NYT reporter Leslie H. Gelb as director of politico-military affairs at Department of State.

Sidney Epstein, executive editor, *Washington Star*, appointed associate publisher and editor and to the board of directors.

Pulitzer prize winner Clark Mollenhoff, former *Des Moines Register* correspondent, author, and instructor in journalism for four years at Washington and Lee University, off to Oxford University in England for a year studying the relationship between the press and British government.

Three new members of the Senate Standing Committee of Correspondents are: Thomas B. Edsall, *Baltimore Sun*; Don Phillips, *UPI*; and Helen Dewar, *Washington Post*.

Joe Laitin, who came to Washington to handle press in the Treasury Department during the Kennedy Administration, had survived the change of presidents until Ronald Reagan. He is now a visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

